



Education Telecommunications Council

NOTES
APRIL 17, 2000

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The April 17, 2000, meeting of the Education Telecommunications Council was held at Iowa Public Television and various ICN sites. The following members were present: Robert Barak, Board of Regents; Al Bode, ISEA; Dean Borg, IASB; Merv Cronbaugh, IACCT; Mary Gannon, IASB; Gene Gardner, IACCT; John Hartung, IAICU; Gary Hayden, AEA Boards; Connie Maxson, SAI; Kathryn O'Shaughnessy, ISEA; Pam Pfitzenmaier, IPTV; Kay Runge, DE/Libraries; Mick Starcevich, SAI; Gail Sullivan, DE; and Mary Travillian, AEA Boards. Paul Bowers, IAICU; David Montgomery, DE/CIANS; and Emmett Vaughan, Board of Regents, were absent.

The following visitors were also present: Michaela Rich (sp?) for Joan Ketels, RTC 7; John Haack, RTC 10; Karen Lombard, RTC 5; Wayne Prophet, RTC 9; Linda Abel, RTC 15; Chuck Chrisman, RTC 16; Kathy Guilgot, RTC 1; Roger Rezabek, RTC 7; Julie Burrell and Stacy McConahay, RTC 14; Winston Black, Randy Mead, and Jane Herrmann, RTC 11; Mike Bacino, ICN; Jim Sutton, ISEA; Lisa Albers, Gwen Nagel, Kathy Borlin, and Debbie Fiscus, IPTV.

II. UPDATE FROM AD HOC COMMITTEE ON ASSESSING ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL TELECOM USE

Kathryn O'Shaughnessy and Dean Borg apprised members on the outcome of the listening session with Mount Vernon Elementary School. This was the second pilot listening session sponsored and conducted by the ETC (the first was with Shenandoah Schools). In order to identify more elementary buildings for similar "conversations," the AEA Media Directors identified schools in their area that might be interested in participating in a one-hour "conversation" session. A letter was sent to these schools inviting their participation. As a follow-up, Doug Anderson, a consultant working with the Star Schools project, called the principals at these schools to determine interest and availability. A few sessions are in the planning stage at this moment. ETC members will be notified of the dates of these sessions so they can participate if they choose to do so. It was discussed that since it is so close to the close of the 1999-00 school year, the conversations will need to be continued in the fall.

Pam Pfitzenmaier stated that in conjunction with the listening sessions above, a survey was sent to a random sampling of supts, principals, teachers, media specialists, and school board members--3,287 surveys total, to gather information from educators and board members regarding telecommunications use in their schools. These surveys will be forwarded to Nancy Maushak for analysis as part of the Star Schools activities. It is expected that the results of the random survey will be available for the September ETC meeting.

III. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

With the legislature scheduled to adjourn soon, members discussed the status of various bills, especially those dealing with technology and telecommunications funding. Mary Gannon stated that the "tech flex bill" was signed by the Governor last week. She also mentioned that

supplementary weighting for at-risk secondary schools is likely to be considered as part of the overall Ed Approps-related legislation.

Discussion followed.

Below are several telecommunications-related bills that are active in the legislature at this time:

HF 2433--concerning community college governance. (Early versions of this bill contained a provision for a study to be conducted concerning K-16 "sharing incentives.") Gene Gardner updated members on this bill and stated that the provision for the K-16 sharing study had been removed from bill. Outcome of this legislation is uncertain at this time.

HF 2198--reorganization study of school districts. The bill has passed both the Senate and House and has been sent to the Governor for his signature.

SF 2433--oversight appropriations bill for all of the ICN related items, including funding for RTCs, part 3 leases, continuation of ATM deployment and ICN video subsidy. The current version of the bill has funding for the ICN video subsidy and RTCs below the Governor's recommendation, all funded from General Fund appropriations. Part 3 leases were listed in SF 2433 at the Governor's recommended level. Of concern, however, was the funding "stream" for Part III leases and ATM deployment. Some legislators proposed funding Part III leases and ATM from reversion funds. Because a number of technology-related expenses for state government are currently on the priority list for reversion funds and the total amount in reversions will not be known until fall of 2000, this funding source is considered by the ICN and Governor's office to be a questionable source. The Governor's office has recommended that ATM be funded from infrastructure funds with Part III leases continued in General Fund appropriations. The ICN sent a legislative alert to members concerning this bill.

IV. RTC FUNDING PLAN FOR FY 2001

Pam Pfitzenmaier asked for volunteers for an ad hoc committee to develop the RTC funding plan for FY 2001. Kathy Borlin of IPTV will be the chair of this ad hoc committee and seeks 2 members each from the ETC and RTC coordinators. This will not be a face-to-face meeting, but will involve a phone conference call. Those wishing to volunteer should contact Pam (pam@iptv.org) or Kathy (kathy@iptv.org). RTC coordinators and chairs will be asked to send recommendations about funding and plans to Kathy Borlin once the total funds for RTCs are known.

V. JUNE 28 ETC/RTC/SCHEDULERS/TIE JOINT MEETING

Pam Pfitzenmaier also asked for volunteers for a planning team to plan the agenda for the joint meeting in June. The planning committee will involve members from ETC, RTCs, schedulers and TIE members.

VI. RESULTS OF THE ETC/RTC POLL AT MARCH MEETING

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE ETC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON CHANGING THE MEETINGS/STRUCTURE OF ETC

There was a very lengthy and in-depth discussion concerning the results of the 8- question poll conducted at the March ETC meeting. As a result of the poll, the ETC executive committee proposed several recommendations for the future structure and meeting format for the ETC. The following motions were made.

MOTION 1

Gene Gardner moved to adopt Item #3 of the executive committee recommendation:

"Meetings will be scheduled and held quarterly. ICN connections will be available for guests but ETC members are expected to attend in person. Meetings will be held Monday, September 18, 2000; Thursday, December 14, 2000; March 2001, and June 2001."

John Hartung seconded. Discussion followed.

Gene Gardner offered a friendly amendment to include Item #4 in this motion:

"On an 'as needed basis,' the chair may call special ETC meetings to be held via the ICN or phone conference call to deal with issues."

Ayes--14, Nays--0, Not voting--0, Absent--4. Motion passed unanimously.

Following discussion of the members, it was understood that the September meeting will not be held on Monday, September 18 but will be changed to another day in that week following a vote of members via email. Notice of the meeting date change will be sent via the list serves. It was also agreed that the meetings for March 2001 and June 2001 will determined within the next few weeks.

MOTION 2

Dean Borg moved to adopt Item #2 of the executive committee recommendation with the chair's discretion to seek a balanced perspective from ETC appointing agencies as needed.

"The Chair and Chair-elect will be selected via nomination and election at the June 28, 2000, meeting. The Chair and Chair-elect will serve on the ETC Executive Committee (assuming their organization is not currently on the Executive Committee). On an annual basis, the Chair-elect will be nominated and voted. Term of office begins immediately following the annual joint meeting in June."

Kay Runge seconded. Discussion followed.

John Hartung offered a friendly amendment to eliminate the second sentence of the motion.

Ayes--14, Nays--0; Not voting--0, Absent--4. Motion passed unanimously.

There was further discussion concerning the title and authority of the Executive Committee and the following motion was made.

MOTION 3

Al Bode moved that an ad hoc committee (titled "ad hoc" instead of executive committee) be established for the purpose of assisting the Chair and Chair-elect during the year to delineate the quarterly ETC agenda and to assist in advising on other management issues to be considered at ETC meetings.

Connie Maxson seconded.

Ayes--14, Nays--0, Not voting--0, Absent--4. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION 4

Dean Borg moved to adopt Item #1 of the executive committee recommendation:

"That the current ETC executive committee retain the current membership for one year.", with a yearly rotation schedule coinciding with the recommendations submitted by the ETC executive committee under Item #1.

Gail Sullivan seconded.

Ayes--14, Nays--0, Not voting--0, Absent--4. Motion passed unanimously.

There was discussion concerning Item #5--

"For communication purposes, we will continue the monthly 'tech updates,' as well as on-line communications about issues of interest to members."

Bob Barak requested clarification of the "we" mentioned above. It was clarified that the "we" will continue to be IPTV staff. IPTV will also continue to provide support to future Chairs of the ETC and to provide all the needed clerical and organization assistance.

Under Item #6--Responsibilities of the Chair--

This item was amended to add letter E--Appoint committees with balanced membership after a general call to members. "Balanced membership" was described as representing the various appointing agencies that comprise the ETC.

MOTION 5

Gene Gardner moved to add letter E to Item #6 and to adopt Item #6 of the ETC executive committee recommendation as amended below: "The responsibilities of the chair will be as follows: A) Chair the ETC meetings; B) Develop the agenda for meetings w/advice of the ad hoc committee (formerly Executive Committee); C) Guide the focus of ETC activities for the year; D) Be the spokesperson for the ETC; and E) Appoint committees with balanced membership after a general call to members. The chair will appoint committees on an as-needed basis after a general call to all members to volunteer to serve. When appropriate to the specific issue, it shall be expected that the chair will strive for a balance of membership on all committees." Bob Barak seconded.

Ayes--14, Nays--0, Not voting--0, Absent--4. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. UPDATE FROM ICN STAFF

Mike Bacino of the ICN updated members concerning the ICN Internet issues. He also informed members that an Internet committee has been established comprised of CCs, AEAs, independent colleges and universities, Regent universities, and others. There have been two meetings of this committee held thus far. The minutes from the March meeting were included in the monthly tech update that was sent to ETC members and RTC coordinators.

Pam Pfitzenmaier informed members that Kathy Williams is seeking help from end users concerning VOSS scheduling software. At the ETC Core Group Meeting, an AEA end user was recommended from region 9 and another end user was recommended from region 6. Kathy is seeking end users who are teachers, media specialists and others who schedule ICN events and who would be willing to test and offer advice on components of the VOSS scheduling software. Anyone interested in volunteering should send their information directly to Kathy Williams (Kathy.Williams@icn.state.ia.us).

IX. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS AND GUESTS

Roger Rezabek reminded members of the IACON conference to be held April 27-28, 2000.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The April 17, 2000, meeting of the Education Telecommunications Council adjourned at 11:20 a.m. The ETC meeting scheduled for May was canceled at today's meeting. The next meeting of the ETC will be at the Joint ETC/RTC/Schedulers/TIE meeting to be held June 28, 2000, in the Maytag Auditorium at Iowa Public Television. Further information concerning this meeting to follow at a later date.

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